

The Philatelic Communicator

Journal of the American Philatelic Society Writers Unit #30

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Second Quarter 2016 Issue 192

WU30 Hall of Fame 2016

Cheryl Ganz

Who would have thought that someone who once owned and operated a restaurant in Des Plaines, Illinois, called “Don’s Dock,” could be elected to the Writers Hall of Fame?! As a teenager our honoree purchased her first zep cover, which set her on a lifelong course to become a specialist in zeppelin postal history. She was so dedicated to this field that she edited *The Zeppelin Collector* for 35 years. Her editing credits also include



The Chicago Philatelic Society News-Bulletin, *Collecting Airmail*, *Via Airmail*, and co-compiler of *The Lighter-than-Air Index*. She has authored numerous articles in the *American Philatelist*, *Jack Knight Air Log*, *German Postal Specialist*, *Linn’s Stamp News*, *Tell*, the *Airpost Journal*, *Collectors Club Philatelist*, *the Chronicle of the U.S.*, *Philatelic Classics Society*, and *The Philatelic Exhibitor* among others. She wrote up the *Collecting Airmail Guide* that the American Airmail Society distributes to this day on its website.

She has also researched and written about the 1938 Chicago World’s Fair and published a book about it that included a chapter about aviation technology at the fair and the visit of the Graf Zeppelin. In her former position as Chief Curator at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, she wrote and edited several books in conjunction with special exhibits that she managed and curated there.

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Art Groten, M.D.

For nearly forty years Dr. Arthur H. Groten has written and published a wide variety of philatelic research. This retired radiologist from Poughkeepsie, New York, received the 2013 Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research.

A list of his published work includes subjects ranging from the plating 2¢ 1864 issue of Canada to Palestine postmarks, various air mail articles from Palestine to international air mail as reflected in the U.S. postal guides. He has edited publications for Postilion Publications, and written auction catalogs designed to be handbooks. And these are just from the list we have of over 15 books and pamphlets he has authored and edited.

Dr. Groten has written extensively for periodical publications most notably for the *Airpost Journal* for which he has won the L. B. Gatchell Literature Award. He is widely known for his recent writing about the fringes of philately, especially his “Paraphilately” column in *American Stamp Dealer & Collector* in which he invented a new form a philately. Other periodicals he has written for include the *American Philatelic Congress Book*, *American Philatelist*, *BNA Topics*, *Collectors Club Philatelist*, *The Ephemer Journal*, *Ephemer News*, *Journal of the Poster Stamp Collectors Club*, *Meter Stamp Society Bulletin*, *The Philatelic Exhibitor*, *Postal Label Collectors Club Bulletin*, *Scott Stamp Monthly*, *S.P.A. Journal* and *Topical Time*.

Dr. Groten has been actively involved with many philatelic organizations and has provided leadership as presi-



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David Crotty From the Editor

WU30 Breakfast at StampShow Portland

The Writer's Unit's most important event each year is the WU30 Breakfast at StampShow, this year in Portland. Diane DuBlois and Robert Dalton Harris, editors of *Postal History Journal* for the Postal History Society will be our featured speakers. They are always a source of a very thoughtful presentation.

Dane Clausen will host the event this year since neither I nor Lloyd de Vries will be able to attend.

Digitizing of Literature and Article Indexes

We see the massive effort to digitize the Crawford collection by the Royal Philatelic Society London. This brings us to our own publications.

Most philatelic societies have launched a project to digitize their literature. Some have been completely successful. Some seem to have gotten stuck somewhere. We found some groups stopped at 2006 or so for some reason. How fast 10 years go by.

The important factor is to keep up to date. Most societies, including this one, keep a year or two of recent editions off the website as an incentive for interested folk to actually join the society.

At the same time an up to date article index is crucial to keeping up interest. Some groups have been keeping up to date (we are maybe two years behind as I write this) and some haven't.

The Philatelic Union Catalog is an excellent and amazing index but it isn't quite current. The individual societies need to fill the gap if possible. The problem as I am told, is that many indexes show some incompatibility with the Union index making it hard to update.

The Royal Philatelic Society London keeps an index on its website and I upload the indexes for TPC and for the Meter Stamp Society Bulletin each year.

WU30 past president Gene Fricks maintains an index for many philatelic journals known as PhilNDX. We are looking into the possibility of mounting that index on our website. Be back with you on that.

Luff Awards

As we go to press the APS announces that the 2016 Luff Awards will go to Cheryl R. Ganz, Robert Dalton Harris and Diane DeBlois, and Dennis Gilson.

Dave



Lloyd de Vries *President's Message*

I'm not there.

Neither are several other officers of the APS Writers Unit #30 at the annual breakfast at APS StampShow 2016.

In a perfect storm of summer scheduling, we all have family and other obligations that are keeping us out of Portland. In my case, my younger son is getting married the weekend before. I suppose I could have booked a flight to Portland a few days later, but I have to work sometimes.

When the wedding date was first announced, I told my wife I wouldn't be there, because I had a stamp show that weekend. She was Not Amused. (I mean, I'm only the father of the groom!)

But look who *will* be there: Our featured speakers at the breakfast are Robert Dalton Harris and Diane DeBlois, who the night before will have received the Luff Award for distinguished philatelic research. At our event, they'll be speaking about combining bibliophily with philately.

Dane Claussen will host the WU30 breakfast with, I'm sure, wit and aplomb. Tara Murray will assist with the awards.

Speaking of philatelists who handle well a job that involves writing, here's a shout-out to Tom Fortunato. He handled publicity and related chores for World

Stamp Show-New York 2016 because of the good job he did for Washington 2006, and he will do the job again for Boston 2026.

The job of a publicist isn't to turn out great prose, although that is always a plus. It's to help journalists turn out great prose. If you have covered the last two Internationals in this country, you already know Tom does a very good job. If all you did was read about the shows, then you may not realize how much of what was in those articles and other materials came from Tom. Publicists — flacks — are an unsung component of productions like a stamp show.

Standing in the scrum awaiting the announcement that a stolen C3a Jenny Invert was being returned to the American Philatelic Research Library, I (a professional mainstream journalist) was reminded how much I dislike professional mainstream journalists covering philatelic subjects.

They didn't know who or what I am, and I didn't tell them.

The event was late starting, so I heard all the tired jokes about "stamp of approval" and how the C3a was stuck on an envelope.

Yet when I made a joke, a Reuters TV cameraman stared right through me. A photographer "reclaimed" his spot by standing right in front of me. But I got back at him: When he told his reporter how the stamps had been stolen in 1982 from a museum, I corrected him.

He did not thank me. I would have been disappointed if he had.

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Alan Warren National Postal Museum Notes

The Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington DC is a tremendous resource for philatelic researchers. One of the areas that might otherwise be overlooked is that of the Finding Guides of some of the specialized collections. These collections are not on view but may be accessed onsite by researchers who make an appointment in advance to see them.

To plan a visit for this purpose, the Finding Guides can be found via the NPM's web site and its Site Map at the bottom of the page (postalmuseum.si.edu/). In 2010 Tom Lera and Stanley Luft revised the guide to the Henry A. Meyer Collection of French Revolution and Napoleonic covers and documents.

Meyer died in 1969 and his niece donated his 14-

volume collection to the NPM over the period 1978-1986. The guide is a listing of the contents of each volume with half a dozen entries or more for each volume. Early volumes contain material on revolutionary society letterhead, the national convention, republican slogans and place names, the relations between France and America, government bureaus, and republican town postmarks.

Another group of volumes contains receiving marks, prepayment and free franking marks, the Helvetic republic, papers related to the ends of the wars of the first and second coalitions, an 1803 letter with Napoleon's threat to invade England, government bureaus of the empire, dealings with various countries, the occupation of Java and Malta, the first and second treaties of Paris, and postmarks of the postwar period.

Still more volumes contain covers with Army post office marks and franks, official mail of the French Army from the Kingdom of Italy, covers of the revolutionary years, the Republican years and the Empire years, and an interesting group of related letters and

NPM Continued on page 10

Hiram E. Deats

Hiram E. Deats was born May 20, 1870, in Flemington Junction, N.J. He started collecting stamps as a child, and joined the APS at 16 as a founding member in 1886. In 1892, he graduated from the Peddie Institute, where he met his wife, Eva Taylor, whom he married on Sept. 27, 1893. They had four children.

His first passion was US and Confederate stamps, of which he had one of the best collections at the time due to his dedication and wealth (after his father died in 1887). Deats also started forming a huge philatelic library that was second only to John K. Tiffany's, much of which he donated to the Free Library of Pennsylvania in 1952. Deats volunteered to the APS for about 20 years, eventually serving as president in 1904-5. He also was a founding member and first librarian of the Collectors Club of New York in 1896.

In about 1895, with a business partner E.B. Sterling, Deats paid the equivalent of more than \$40,000 in today's money for ten railroad boxcars of "waste paper" from the US Treasury Department. The haul, which required many people sorting through it for two years, included thousands



of stamps, proofs, essays, and covers, plus important correspondence primarily related to revenues.

He was co-author (with G.L. Toppan and A. Holland), *An Historical Reference List of the Revenue Stamps of the United States Including the Private Die Proprietary Stamps* (1899, reprinted 1979); Editor, *The Collector's Ledger* journal (1888); various articles and lists for *The American Philatelist* (1894), *The Daily Stamp Item* (1896); Publisher, *Index to The Quaker City Philatelist* [for 1886-94] (1917); "Introduction," *Some Notes on the New York Postmaster's Provisional Five Cents, Black, 1845*, by O.S. Hart (1911). Intriguingly, Deats and William R. Ricketts are said to have prepared a 1915 update to Tiffany's 1889 *Catalogue of Philatelic Publications, Arranged by the Decimal System*, but it was never published and the manuscript apparently has been lost.

Deats' professed occupation was farmer and he lived most of his life on his farm, called Minneakoning, where he was a Cooperative Weather Observer for the US Weather Bureau for more than 50 years starting in 1898. But he also had vast interests in coins, bookplates, archaeology, natural science, and various civic, agricultural, religious, and Masonic organizations. Deats was a trustee of Bucknell University. He was generally interested in books, serving as president of the New Jersey Library Association in 1909-10, and also New Jersey history (especially genealogy). The Hunterdon County Historical Society's library also is named for him. Deats was a member of the grand jury that indicted Bruno Hauptmann in 1934 for the kidnapping and murder of Charles A. Lindbergh Jr.

He signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1933, was made an Honorary Life Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London in 1943, an Honorary Member of the American Revenue Association in 1953, and inducted into the American Philatelic Society Hall of Fame in 1963. Deats also received an honorary doctorate from Rutgers University. He died March 16, 1963 at age 92. ☞

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She has also exhibited in her chosen field including the recent World Stamp Show New York 2016 where her single frame display achieved 94 points and Best in Class.

Philatelic leadership is another of her strong suits as revealed by a track record of various positions with the American Air Mail Society, AMERIPEX 86 exhibition, American Philatelic Society, Chicago Philatelic Society, Collectors Club of Chicago, and the USPS Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee. Her accolades include many American Air Mail Society awards: the Earl and Fred Wellman literature award, the aerophilatelic research award, the George W. Angers memorial award for outstanding service to aerophilately, the president's award for outstanding service, and the Aerophilatelic Hall of Fame.

Other honors include the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Aérophilateliques (FISA) gold medal, the Saul Newbury award for service to Chicagoland philately, the Lee medal of the Royal Philatelic Society London, the Distinguished Philatelist award of the U.S. Philatelic Classics

Society, the Wisconsin Philatelic Hall of Fame, the Philatelic Foundation's Neinken medal for meritorious service to philately, the Elizabeth C. Pope award for lifetime contributions to philately, the Carlrichard Brühl medal of the Briefmarkenfreunde Düsseldorf, and the Alfred F. Lichtenstein memorial award of the Collectors Club of New York.

When Cheryl retired from the Smithsonian the *Alumni News* of her alma mater, University of Illinois Chicago, wrote that she followed the credo "every stamp tells a story." Cheryl Ganz transformed the vision of philately at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum and institutions around the world.

"Her impact on the hobby has been huge," says Gordon Morrison, former head of the U.S. Postal Service's stamp program. "She has demonstrated many times how stamps, well presented, can reach very diverse audiences and make history come alive."

"The customary way museums exhibited their collections was almost like a stamp album or catalog," Ganz explains. "Here are stamps 1, 2 and 3 from countries A, B and

John Kerr Tiffany

John Kerr Tiffany was born in St. Louis on Feb. 9, 1842. He started collecting stamps as a child living in Paris, where his parents took him to learn French. He graduated from Harvard University in 1865, and began studying law, passing the bar exam in November 1868. He then moved to St. Louis to practice law.

Already collecting philatelic literature, Tiffany published *The Philatelic Library: A*




Catalogue of Stamp Publications in 1874, and *Les Timbres des Etats-Unis d'Amerique* in 1883. (It was revised and expanded as *History of the Postage Stamps of the United States of America* in 1887.) In 1886, he was member #1 of the new American Philatelic Association, and served as president from 1886 to 1896.

In 1887, Tiffany published the *History of the Postage Stamps of the United States of America* through St. Louis's C.H. Mekeel. His other works include *The Stamp Collector's Library Companion, Part I* (1889) and *Addenda* (1890), "Proofs and Essays" sections of the *American Journal of Philately* (1889); "The Stamps of Peru" in *The*

Metropolitan Philatelist (1891); *A St. Louis Symposium* (1894) [successfully plating the St. Louis Postmaster Provisionals]; and, with R.R. Bogert and Joseph Rechert, *The Stamped Envelopes, Wrappers, and Sheets of the United States* (1892).

In an 1890 poll of US philatelists, Tiffany was voted the second most important (after John W. Scott). He died March 3, 1897, in St. Louis, Mo. In 1901, Charles J. Phillips bought Tiffany's philatelic library for the UK's Lord Crawford. When E.D. Bacon, curator of Lord Crawford's library, published a catalog of it in 1911, he wrote, "This gentleman [Tiffany] had been an indefatigable collector of every publication connected with the pursuit of stamp collecting. For two decades—from 1870 to 1890—he was to all intents and purposes, the only collector of this class of literature in either the United States or Great Britain, other philatelists of that period being content if they possessed a few of the more important journals and works. Mr. Tiffany included in his collection all separate works, journals, retail and wholesale price lists, notices of dealers and societies, articles on stamp collecting in non-philatelic magazines, works on postal history and music with philatelic or postal titles."

Later, Lord Crawford's library, still including Tiffany's, was donated to the British Museum, London, where it remains until today. (Note an article in this TPC edition about digitizing the Crawford collection).

He was named a "Father of Philately" by the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists on its launch in 1921, and was inducted into the APS Hall of Fame in the first year's group in 1941. Today, the American Philatelic Society's endowment fund, launched by APSWU Hall of Fame inductee Randy L. Neil when he was APS President, is named after Tiffany. 

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C. Bor-ring! I wanted to bring more excitement to our exhibits, to use stamps as a way of understanding the larger events that produced them. There was a great team at the museum, great curators. The trick was for everybody to start thinking big.

"We brought in more film and interaction for young people, and set up a photo booth where you could turn a photograph of yourself into a vintage line engraving on a stamp," Ganz says. "We also built exhibits around rare-pieces of mail owned by the museum, including a letter from John Hancock, dated July 4, 1776. We tried to make the whole experience fun, as well as educational."


When she retired from her post as Chief Philatelic Curator she was honored as Philatelic Curator Emerita, the first person so honored from the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum.

And now we welcome Cheryl Ganz to the Writers Unit Hall of Fame. 

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dent of the Ephemera Society of America, president of the Poster Stamp Collectors Club, president of the Postal Label Study group, director of the Society of Israel Philatelists, and director of the St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society.

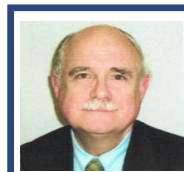
As a philatelic exhibitor Art has shown Canada's 1859 decimal issue, postal history of St. Helena, Australia's King George V one penny typographed issue, British Palestine, and Union Civil War patriotic labels. These exhibits have earned him at least three international Large Vermeil and three international Vermeil medals. On the national level they have earned (again at least as this was taken from an old list) three Grand Awards, four Reserve Grand Awards, eight Gold medals and dozens of special awards.

For this and more, the APS Writers Unit #30 honors Dr. Arthur H. Groten, M.D. with their Writers Unit Hall of Fame Award. 

Writing for Philatelic Publications: Yes You Can!

John Hotchner

The following is a talk given by John Hotchner as one of the APS Author Lecture Series at WSS NY 2016, Thursday, June 2, 11am.



John Hotchner

Welcome. We all know that becoming a philatelic author requires the ability to write, and something to write about, but

perhaps less well known is that it also requires a set of attitudes that gets you from merely thinking about it, to actually doing it. These attitudes include:

- The willingness to fail,
- Thechutzpah to believe you won't,
- The drive to park yourself in a chair in front of a computer, and fill a page with thoughts and information, and,
- The enthusiasm to keep producing until you are proud of your work.

Let me illustrate with my own history as a writer. In 1973, after many months of dithering: Can I-Can't I?, Should I-Shouldn't I? What should I write about-Would anybody care?, I finally sat down with a pad of paper determined to construct an article for my local club newsletter. (Remember, this was the time before computers!) There was no issue of failure since the editor was begging for material, but I had to believe that I had something worthwhile to say.

Having done it once, I found I enjoyed presenting my opinions and favorite items from my collection. Not everyone loved the articles, but that did not curb my enthusiasm.

And I gradually got to a point where I was pleased with my writing. It was not Ernest Hemingway, and likely never would be. But it was mine and members told me it was worth reading.

The next thing that happened was I noticed that no one was addressing in Linn's the subjects I was writing about locally. So here is where the willingness to fail andchutzpah come in. In 1976, after attending INTERPHIL '76, I sent a few of my articles in to the then editor of Linn's, Ed Neuce, and suggested that I should be given a regular column to be titled "The Philatelic Philosopher", in which I could talk about why people collect, how they choose their

collecting areas, and other motivational issues.

I realized this was a bit cheeky, and did not expect a positive reply, but nothing ventured, nothing gained. No one was more surprised than I was when the Editor wrote back and said I could have space once a month, to talk about anything I liked, AND they would pay me \$10 for each column. Well, nothing like starting at the top – But what if the column did not resonate with Linn's readers?

That thought had to be banished, and rapidly! I knew I had something worthwhile to say, so I set to work. The initial group of columns drew some nice comments from Linn's readers, including from Ernie Kehr (a friend of my father's) and Jacques Minkus (for whom I had worked two summers during college). I was off and running!

About this time, I was getting deeply involved in studying and exhibiting Error, Freak and Oddity material; again, a subject that did not grace Linn's pages. So I again proposed to Ed Neuce that I also do another monthly column to be called EFO Corner. To make a long story short, Linn's bought the idea, and I was happy as a clam, making \$20 a month writing about things that were important to me, and hoping to make converts among Linn's readership.

Two pay raises later, in 1986, I was earning \$25 per column. Mid-year I received a phone call from then editor Michael Laurence saying that Linn's was reformatting and wanted to resurrect a concept that had been part of Linn's in the 1960s when Carl Rueth wrote the U.S. Notes column featured in every issue. He covered the U.S. collecting waterfront, with a special emphasis on modern material, and that is what I would be expected to do.

In truth, I was not sure I could keep up with a weekly column. But "chutzpah" was my middle name by then, so I said "Sure, why not!?" I then told Michael that I wanted to include a monthly Cartoon Caption Contest, and I wanted to occasionally feature people who were rising stars in our hobby.

He argued against both. Stamp collectors are a somber lot, he said, and are not possessed of much of a sense of humor. And furthermore, they are mostly solitary collectors and don't much care about other collectors. But he said I could try these ideas and see what happened. Well, here we are, about 375 cartoon contests later, and it remains a regular feature; one

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that involves readers with the column, and presents our hobby as one that can laugh at itself.

I did feature the rising stars over about two years, and the feature was well received. Many of those people went on to become the leaders of our hobby during the next 20 years. Perhaps it is time to do that again.

I'd like to give you lots of time for questions, for sharing your experiences, and for discussion, so let me end this with a Bakers' Dozen lessons plus one, distilled from my 40 years of experience wielding a philatelic pen; in four categories.

First, How to approach the task:

1. Start locally. Get comfortable with writing. Develop your style. Listen to your critics and adjust.

2. When you feel yourself getting comfortable, challenge yourself to do more, at higher philatelic levels like writing for society journals, doing a stamp collecting column if your local newspaper is willing, writing for the national philatelic periodicals such as LaPosta, US Stamp News, and Brookman Times.

3. Involve your readers in your writing. Ask for reactions. Ask for information. Ask for what they would like you to write about. Then be sure to answer their letters and emails. People who write can be your friends. But more importantly they are your readers and you rise and fall according to how they respond to your work.

In the category of The craft of writing:

4. Words have precise meanings. Make sure the ones you use mean what you intend them to mean. Don't guess. A dictionary and a thesaurus are your best friends.

5. Strive for accuracy. The written word has a life of its own, and mistakes live on for generations; even if later corrected. I might also add that the readers who love your work will do so silently, or maybe will stop you in the aisles of a stamp show to tell you how much they enjoy your articles. But those few who love to catch you making mistakes will blast you in public via letters to the editor, or posting on social media. Taking the trouble to be accurate and precise gives them little fodder for their complaints.

6. Use short declaratory sentences, short paragraphs, and headers to break up your articles as much as possible. Large blocks of text look daunting at a subconscious level and push potential readers away.

7. Clearly label your points as being fact, supposi-

tion, or opinion. In other words, avoid presenting opinion as fact, even if you think it probably is. Intellectual honesty is an important attribute for authors.

8. When you are done, read your article critically, as if you are the audience for whom you are writing. Make sure your explanations are clear. Look for logical progression. First should come your premise and the assumptions you are making. Then the conclusions you draw from them. Then your proofs, and your summary.

9. There is no such thing as the perfect article. While I encourage rereading your final a time or two to catch typos, logical inconsistencies, questionable assertions, there comes a time when you have to release the baby and let it walk. Generally that is when you are spending 20% more time making the article 5% better.

In the category of helping you to write:

10. Build a philatelic library in your specialty. While it is less important in this era of Google, than when I began, you will rapidly learn how much is NOT on the Internet

11. Join the APS Writers Unit. Read its journal. Contribute your experiences.


12. Respect and Love deadlines. Without them we put off until tomorrow what we would rather not do today. As a charter member of the procrastinators' club, I can tell you for certain that I would not have produced even half of what I do without deadlines.

Finally, look to the future:

13. Recognize early that you will not get rich being a philatelic writer. I regularly write 13 features for 10 publications. Only three of those publications pay honoraria, and these are not commercial wages. Money is nice, but it is not why I write.

14. Be willing to go past your comfort zone. As a writer, a recognized name, opportunities will come your way: to speak, to run for office, to write in new venues, to be involved in projects. Although you may never have done that before, and are even apprehensive about doing these things, look at them as an opportunity to grow and exercise talents you didn't even know you had.

With that, I'm happy to take questions.

(Editor's Note: John reports that questions went on for about 20 minutes! )

Crawford Philatelic Library Digitized

The major philatelic library built up by the 26th Earl of Crawford was made available online at www.globalphilateliclibrary.org starting 30 May 2016.

The Crawford Philatelic Library comprises over 1.3 million pages and represents around 95% of the world's published philatelic knowledge at the time it was created through 1913.

This major digitization program was launched on Monday, 30 May 2016 during the World Stamp Show in New York. A presentation was given at the Javits Centre by Frank Walton RDP FRPSL, President of The Royal Philatelic Society London.

When the 26th Earl of Crawford died in 1913 he left his magnificent philatelic library to the British nation. It has been carefully kept and conserved ever since by the British Library in London, where it is available for researchers in the Reading Room.

Thanks to creative thinking and IT development by staff at the British Library and volunteers from The Royal Philatelic Society London, a project to digitize every page of every volume is now well advanced. The work has been aided by funding from the British Library, the former British Philatelic Trust, the Philatelic Fund and The Royal Philatelic Society London.

More details of this project were given by David Beech MBE FRPSL, in a supplement published with

the March edition of *The London Philatelist*, journal of The Royal Philatelic Society London. The text can be downloaded from the Global Philatelic Library website.

To obtain the file of this document, The *Crawford Library of Philatelic Literature*, by David Beech navigate to www.globalphilateliclibrary.org/ (Figure 1), click on the red "British Library" icon and then search for David Beech. The 28 page book will appear ready to download.

The booklet tells the story of Lord Crawford's extensive family library known as Bibliotheca Lindesiana, Figure 2. The Earl became enamored, shall we say, with philately in the late 1800s and obtained everything available until his death in 1913. His collection included the library collected by James Kerr Tiffany who has been selected for the 2016 Writer's Unit Hall of Fame (see page 5).



Figure 1. Home Page of the Global Philatelic Library.



Figure 2. Book Plate for Lord Crawford's family library known as Bibliotheca Lindesiana.

Blogs-Links to Dynamic Writing

Steve Swain

A blog (short for weblog) is a website typically created and maintained by an individual or small group. Blogs generally do not provide as much content and as many features as standard websites, but that is purposeful and valuable. A blog is dynamic. Its content changes on a regular basis, sometimes daily. Most importantly, unlike most standard websites a blog allows site visitors to communicate with the site and other visitors by posting a comment or narrative as a new post or as a reply to a previous visitor's post.

Some writers entirely avoid blog sites and consider them thinly disguised social media chat rooms, offering limited value as outlets for legitimate creations. But this perspective is routinely challenged by accomplished, successful writers who contend that blogs can be the perfect venue for writing on topics that they are passionate about. No need to be wedded to the requirements of writing for magazines or journals with sometimes lengthy acceptance and publishing time frames. Instead, posting to a blog is dynamic, it can happen daily by casual and experienced writers. And posts to blogs need not be simply a sentence or two. Most blog sites are designed to accept and offer quite substantial articles and other lengthy works.

The World Wide Web definitely lives up to its name when it comes to philatelic blogs. The hundreds of blogs available on the internet provide opportunities to learn about and offer postings related to French stamp collecting, how stamps are created and issued by various countries, Indian stamping methods and techniques, worldwide birds-on-stamps, the history of German stamps, the Argentina 1935-51 definitive series, and so on.

Philatelic blogs range from the overly simple and narrowly focused to quite impressively designed, content rich sites offering a wealth of stamp collecting information, insight and pleasure. I believe a successful philatelic blog, and one that is worth visiting and contributing to, has the following characteristics:

- Straightforward, easy to use navigation, usually via menus and sidebars.
- Posts are categorized and site visitors can easily access post archives.
- Posts can contain text, images and links to other posts, both within the blog and to the entire web.
- A search feature. An About page. A Contact page.

Here are three sites I consider to have most, if not all, of the criteria for a successful blog:

The Virtual Stamp Club at WWW.VIRTUALSTAMPCLUB.COM represents the very essence of a classic blog created and maintained by a single individual, Lloyd A. de Vries.

Access the Message Board to view recent entries related to worldwide stamps and postal history. From that page, you can also view and post comments.



Figure 1. Logo for the Virtual Stamp Club.

Scroll down and under Categories click *John Hotchner* to view outstanding articles from the renowned philatelist and author and post a comment for any of the articles. Continue viewing the content-rich blog's offerings by clicking on Article Archives from the left-side menu. There you will find not only links to videos, first day ceremony reports and more, but hundreds of articles on an impressive range of philatelic topics. For aspiring philatelic writers, I highly recommend spending time at The Virtual Stamp Club. You will "learn from the best" and have an opportunity to join that community with your posts.

Created and maintained by Keijo Kortelainen of Finland, Stamp Collecting Blog (WWW.STAMPCOLLECTINGBLOG.COM) has over 9,200 posts and 500 article entries from visitors making it a site providing an especially wide range of information and discussion of all things philatelic. The site's left

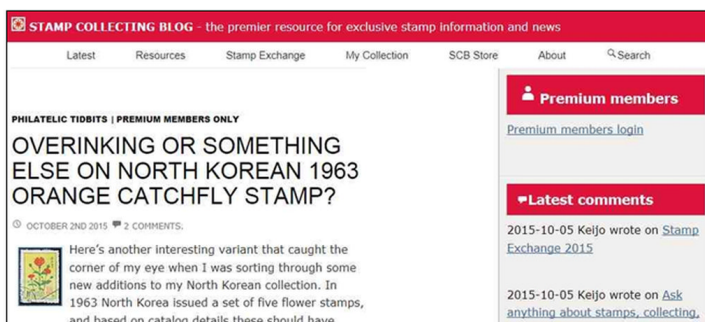


Figure 2. Home page of Stamp Collecting Blog

sidebar provides easy navigation to latest comments, viewing archived entries, browsing articles by topic and country and, yes, viewing the collection of the site's creator. The home page search feature allows you to narrow searches by articles only, discussions

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Blog Continued from page 9

(posts) only, or both. Article categories and titles of popular articles are provided at the bottom of the site's home page.



Figure 3. Home page for StampNews.com

International Stamp News (WWW.STAMPNEWS.COM) has a professionally designed, image-rich layout and is a true joy to visit. The site's left sidebar provides access to the most popular posts and posts receiving the most comments. At the bottom of the main page, the News section provides links to sites and articles offering discussions related to last year's most popular stamps, post offices around the world and the ten most "touching" stamps of 2014. International Stamp News presents numerous blogging avenues for novice and experienced collectors and writers.



Figure 4. ProBlogger.com Start Page.

Depending on your objectives, having your own blog can provide not only an excellent outlet for your writing but could also be quite rewarding financially. An excellent website offering education and guidance about creating and maintaining a successful blog site is WWW.PROBLOGGER.NET.

Yes, some blog sites are thinly disguised social media chat rooms, offering limited value as outlets for your creations. But be smart about selecting sites and consider gladly embracing the philatelic blogger label. Expand your creative vista by contributing to blogs and let them become your daily links to dynamic philatelic writing.

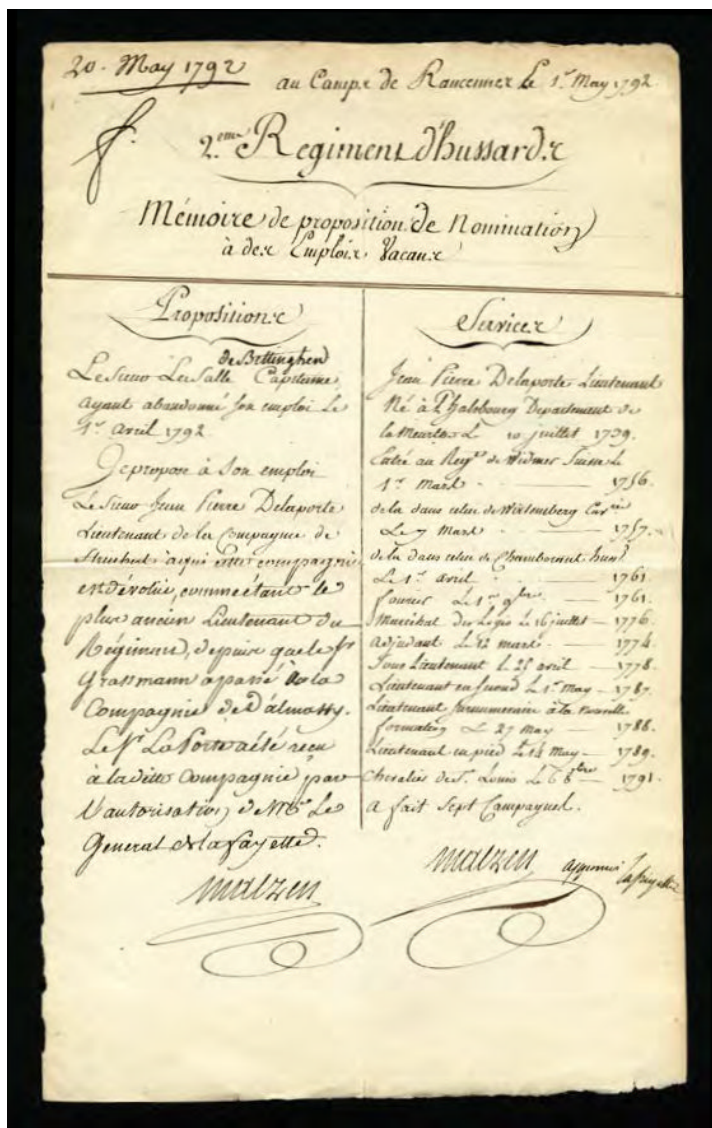


NPM Continued from page 3

documents that once was part of King Farouk's collection.

Shown here is the detailed service record of an individual who entered military service in 1756 at the age of 17 and was discharged in 1792 as a full lieutenant. The finding guide ends with a list of key philatelic literature references that should be consulted for a fuller understanding and appreciation of the Henry Meyer collection.

Credit photo: Courtesy of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum



Reviews

Print & Electronic



Overrun and Occupied Country Series: Book 1 – The Poland Stamp & its Varieties, by Keith Lichtman. 54 pages, 8 ½ by 11 inches, comb bound, plastic covers, self-published, Staten Island, N.Y., 2014. ISBN 978-0-692-21209-7, \$35 post-paid in USA from Keith Lichtman, 37 Indale Avenue, Staten Island NY 10309. It is also sometimes listed for sale on eBay.

This is the first in a series of booklets, each one devoted to one of the familiar 1943-44 issues of these stamps. The Poland stamp is examined in depth, especially with respect to printing varieties. At the front of the book is a picture of the stamp and tags that identify various parts of the design: the top and bottom banners, the flag pole, the left and right figures of Phoenix and Freedom, and the value tablets which are pedestals beneath the figures.

Details of the printing are listed including date of issue, printer, designer, engraver, first day city, quantity issued, last day of sale, colors, and margin markings among others. There are no plate numbers but only corner imprints of the country name. Lichtman points out inking varieties of

the marginal POLAND. A copy of the POD announcement for this issue from the *Postal Bulletin* is reproduced.

Of the four types of paper known for these issues, there are only two for the Poland stamp—ordinary white and brownish. Color images are shown. Gum varieties are smooth and ridged. Several pages are devoted to the reverse printing phenomenon known with these stamps. These relate to whether the black or the color portion of the flags was printed first. Methods to detect normal vs reverse are described.

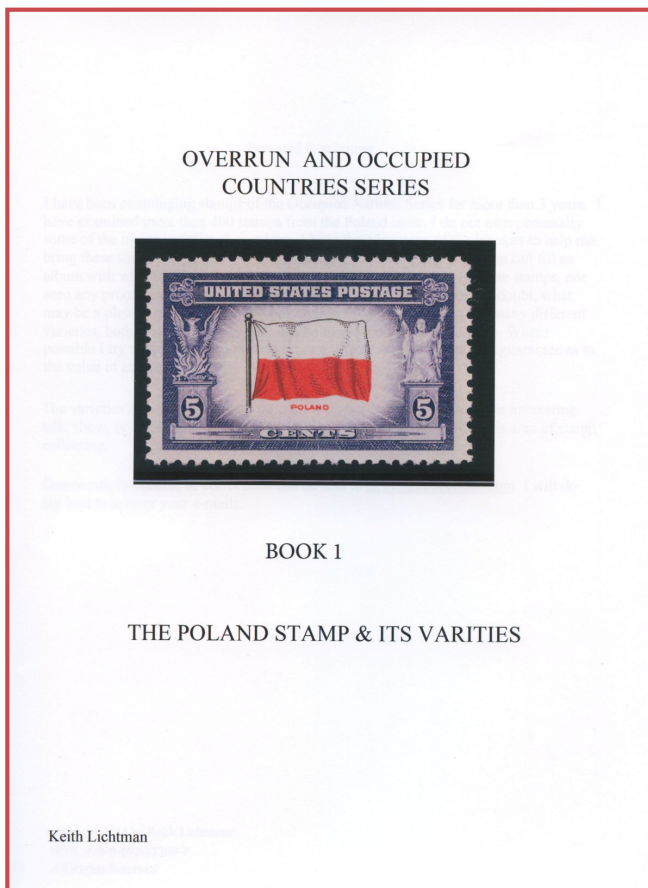
Double impressions of the red flag and the country name are highlighted, and differentiated from over-inking or bleeding. Inking varieties of the country name are provided in a checklist and many of them are illustrated under magnification. The outline of the flag is printed in black and many varieties are shown like breaks in the outline, as well as shading anomalies in the folds of the flag.

The position of the flag is found to shift and the red portion of the flag has mis-registration. Examples of both are seen in the book. Plate flaws are recorded for the flag pole itself as well as the red field of the flag. Some errors, freaks, and oddities are shown, i.e. non-repetitive defects as opposed to plate flaws.

A post card announcement of the first day of issue was released by the POD, followed by a second card indicating that first day cancels would be available in Chicago as well as Washington. The latter city had both hand and machine cancels. However, the author identifies them only as having large or small diameter dials. Several cachets are shown but the cachet designers are not identified.

A brief list of references concludes the book. The sources should have the journal and book titles in italics. The layout, editing, and illustrations are quite good but there is a glaring typo on the front cover. Collectors of this fascinating series of stamps would do well to look to these booklets to learn more about them.

Alan Warren



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Thronhjems By-Post by Knut Glasø. 192 pages, 6 ¾ by 9 ¾ inches, hard cover, in English, Skanfil, Haugesund, Norway, 2015. ISBN 978-82-92535-17-2, 350 Norwegian crowns plus postage from Skanfil, PO Box 2030, Haugesund, Norway, or www.skanfil.no.

Local post service and stamps were used in many of the Scandinavian countries in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The term Bypost literally means “town post.” The purpose was for delivery of letters, cards, and even parcels in the town where the local post stamps were sold. The stamps and covers are eagerly collected. However it is necessary to have specialized monographs and catalogs in order to study this material.

Georg Fredrik Krogh of Trondheim in Norway introduced his local post stamps in 1865. He later sold the business and eventually the town’s local post enterprise was taken over by the Brækstad firm. The details of the early history of the local post are revealed in the first chapter of Glasø’s book, written by Kjell Fiskvik.

After some years local posts proved not to be very profitable and there was government pressure to eliminate the competitive businesses. However, the Trondheim local post continued until 1913.

Local post stamps proved to be very popular with collectors, thus yielding income for which they did not have to provide service.

Only about 40 pages of this book provide the background history of the city’s local post. Most of

the book is in fact a catalog of the local post stamps and stationery of Trondheim. Glasø somewhat follows previous bypost catalogs but expands into varieties not previously recorded, and therefore uses his own numbering system. He does cross reference other catalog numbers where appropriate.

In addition to good color illustrations of the issues he provides denomination, color, and perforations details. This is not a priced catalog but he does

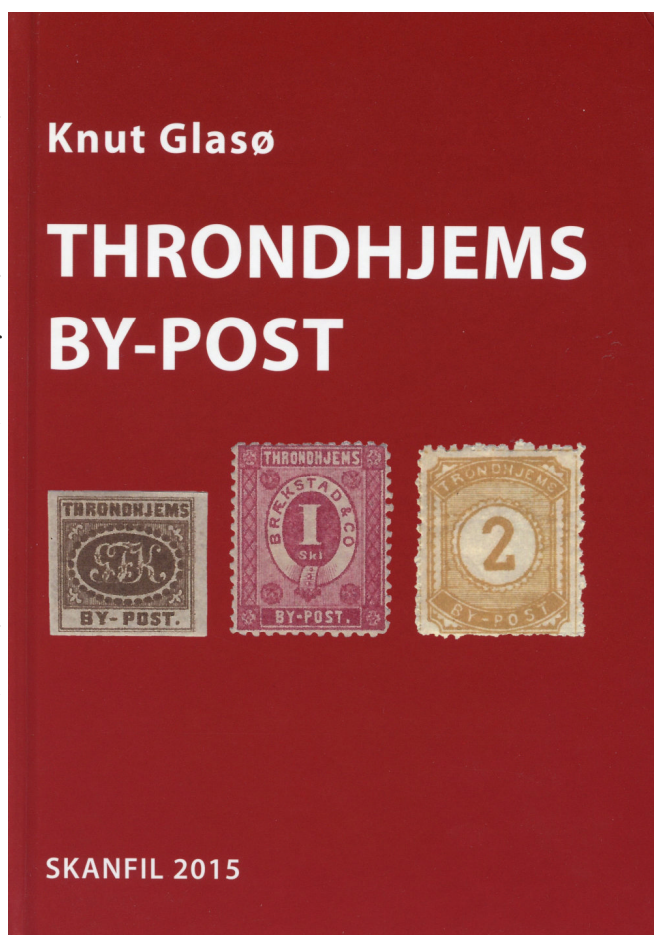
point out rare and extremely rare items. Many of the listings include a paragraph or more of explanatory text about cancellations and paper. Some issues have extensive plate flaw descriptions that enable the stamps to be plated.

Local post postal cards were also sold and used in Trondheim and these are listed with their own catalog numbers. A chapter on postmarks is based on the work of Frederick A. Brofos who studied this material and published his findings in the United States. Glasø notes that souvenir sheets of the Trondheim locals were also printed and sold to collectors and tourists. A list of references concludes the book.

This detailed catalog with very fine illustrations is now the definitive resource for collectors of Trondheim’s local post (Bypost) issues.

The fact that the Norwegian author chose to publish this in English greatly widens the audience.

Alan Warren





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Literature Exhibits at NY2016 from US Authors

In recent years this editor has found it necessary to trim back reporting of the large international shows due to their large literature subscriptions. Once again it may seem xenophobic (despite how common xenophobia seems to be these days) to select the US exhibitors that sent literature materials to the NY 2016 show. However of a total of 835 exhibits there are about 200 literature exhibits listed in the Palmares download and that would take up about 7-8 pages of our journal. This sampling of about 25 exhibits is important because it shows the range of interest from US writers.

This was an expensive show and the writers had to meet considerable rules to be qualified. We also realize that this probably represents a fraction of the authors who actually tried to send an exhibit. The entire show was greatly oversubscribed. The US exhibitors did fairly well overall.

The full palmares listing of philatelic and literature exhibits can be obtained from the NY2016 website at www.ny2016.org and click "Exhibits" at the top toolbar.



Metal	Frame	#	Title	Author	Country	Class
LV	11A-094	155	Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting	Juell, Rodney	U.S.A.-E	11A
LS	11A-095	158	Every Stamp Tells a Story	Ganz, Cheryl R.	U.S.A.-E	11A
SB	11A-096	170	Going 'Postal' Towards Space	Moore, Sr., Randy	U.S.A.-E	11A
SB	11A-097	169	Hard Copy Communication	Moore, Sr., Randy	U.S.A.-E	11A
LV	11A-099	159	Line Engraved Security Printing	Graznow, Gary	U.S.A.-E	11A
SB	11A-101	168	Postal Evidence of the American Civil War	Moore, Sr., Randy	U.S.A.-E	11A
G	11A-102	174	Soviet Clandestine Mail Surveillance, 1917-1991	The Collectors Club of Chicago	U.S.A.-E	11A
V	11A-103	176	Spanish Philippine Postal Issues Genuine Surcharge Types of 1881-1888: Illustrated Guide	Peterson, Gooding and Lera, Donald	U.S.A.-E	11A
G	11A-104	160	The Prestamp History of El Salvador 1525-1866	Collectors Club of Chicago	U.S.A.-E	11A
G	11A-105	178	The Sultanate of Nejd, A Philatelic Manual. A Study of Early Saudi Arabian Philately	Riachi, Ghassan	U.S.A.-E	11A
V	11B-031	162	Journal of Cuban Philately	Cuesta, Ernesto	U.S.A.-E	11B
LS	11B-033	163	Menelik's Journal	Lindahl, Ulf	U.S.A.-E	11B
V	11B-034	106	Mexicana, The Journal of the Mexico Elmhurst Philatelic Society International	Roberts, Michael	U.S.A.-E	11B
V	11B-036	156	The American Philatelist	American Philatelic Society	U.S.A.-E	11B
V	11B-037	161	The Cuban Philatelist	Iglesias, Fernando	U.S.A.-E	11B
S	11C-032	171	International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog	Stambaugh, Richard	U.S.A.-E	11C
LS	11C-033	164	Ngo's 2014 Catalogue of Philippine Republic Stamps & Postal Stationeries	Ngo, Tiong Tak	U.S.A.-E	11C
LV	11C-034	165	USA: Variable Denomination Stamps (1989-2015)	Roder, Karim	U.S.A.-E	11C
LS	11C-035	166	Worldwide Reply Coupon Catalog, Vol-I The UPU	Yao, Jack	U.S.A.-E	11C
LV	11A-093	82	Collector's Guide to Confederate Philately, Second Edition	Kimbrough, John	U.S.A.-W	11A
LG	11A-098	81	Hawaii Foreign Mail to 1870	Gregory, Fred F.	U.S.A.-W	11A
G	11A-100	83	Mails of the Westward Expansion, 1803-1861	Western Cover Society	U.S.A.-W	11A
V	11A-106	80	USPS Automated Postal Centers, 2012-2014 (Electronic Book on DVD)	Elias, Peter	U.S.A.-W	11A
LS	11B-030	110	Forerunners, Official Journal of the Philatelic Society for Greater Southern Africa	Thy, Peter	U.S.A.-W	11B
S	11B-032	119	Journal of Sports Philately	Maestroni, Mark	U.S.A.-W	11B
SB	11B-035	114	Stamping Around (2015, Volume 28)	Elias, Peter	U.S.A.-W	11B
LS	11B-038	112	The Israel Philatelist	Chafetz, Donald	U.S.A.-W	11B
V	11C-031	148	Croatia 1941-1945 Revenue Issues (Web only)	Hughes, Philip J.	U.S.A.-W	11C



Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary Report 2Q2016

It is requested that all members please note the expiration date in the address panel above your name. Dues notices will be mailed before StampShow in August to all who have not paid through 2016. If you have paid through 2016 it would be appreciated if you could pay your dues for 2017 or beyond to save a mailing this fall.

New Members

2020 Jeremy Borouchoff, 1616 N 58th St, Milwaukee, WI 53208-2138. Freelance writer, blogger at <www.revolvingdoorphilately.com>.

Deceased

1774 Eliot A. Landau

Resigned

1848 Roger P. Quinby

About Writers Unit #30

Purpose of the Writers Unit #30 of the American Philatelic Society is to encourage and assist philatelic communications, knowledge, and comradeship. Membership is open to anyone interested in philatelic communications.

Join Us Today

Membership includes a subscription to the *Philatelic Communicator*. Membership applications received by

October 1 will be recorded as members for that calendar year and will receive all four quarterly issues of the *Philatelic Communicator* for that year. Applications received after October 1 will be recorded as members for the following calendar year.

A membership application may be downloaded from the Writers Unit #30 website at www.wu30.org. Existing members are encouraged to download this form and give it to potential members so they can join.

Membership Dues

The membership dues for each calendar year are:

USPS ZIP Code Addresses..... \$20.00
Canada and Mexico..... \$22.50
All Other Addresses..... \$25.00

Payment must be made in U.S. funds by a check imprinted with a U.S. bank transit number, or by postal money order payable to "APS Writers Unit #30." Some overseas members prefer to send U.S. bank notes.

Updating Your Mailing Address

Please notify us of address changes to assure that you receive without delay each issue of *The Philatelic Communicator*. This will also save WU#30 several dollars because the USPS charges us when they have to send us an address correction, and we still have to pay the postage for re-shipping the issue to the member.

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2016 Literature and Web Exhibits

APS StampShow August 4-7, 2016, Portland, OR,
www.stamps.org/StampShow

CHICAGOPEX November 18-20, 2016, Itasca, IL,
www.chicagopex.com/

APS CAC Newsletter Competition, January 2017 entrance deadline. jkfohn.alamo.1043@gmail.com

NAPEX, June 2017, McLean Tysons Corner, VA,
www.napex.org/ (no show in 2016)

APS CAC Website Competition, June 2017,
www.stamps.org/cac/

Materials for Review

Material for review may be sent to the editor. Reviews of materials are welcomed from members and non-members. Reviews should be concise and stress those aspects that are helpful examples (positive or negative) for other authors, editors and publishers. Review requests from those having an interest in the item, such as publishers and distributors, must include a copy of the publication.

Expert Help for Writers and Editors

Dr. Dane S. Claussen, Writers Unit #30 past president, offers free critiques of periodicals, books and manuscripts. Submit the four most recent issues, including postage equivalent to four times the first class mailing fee. Any unused amount will be returned. Critiques can be expected in about 30 days. Inquire before sending books and manuscripts, providing a brief description. Return time will vary depending on length and other commitments. Include an SASE. Note that Dr. Claussen has moved. Send to Dr. Dane S. Claussen's Email: danesc.aussen@gmail.com.